AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by rewriting the following paragraphs, as set forth below in marked-up form.

Please amend paragraph 14, beginning on page 4, line 22, with the following paragraph:

More specifically, there are problems that when the dust particles enter an area between the flying head slider and the disk, the flying head slider comes into contact with the dust particles and thus the disk surface. And a suspension would begin to oscillate at a normal mode frequency under an excitation force, and, as a result, cause a difficulty in following a track. A ~~Further~~ further problem is that an excessive amount of dust particles can cause damages on the disk and cause a head crash.

Please amend paragraph 22, beginning on page 7, line 24, with the following paragraph:

As thus described, according to the present invention, as positive pressure generating surfaces of the air bearing ~~ad~~ slider includes, a U-shaped leading pad, which is at the front part of the slider and includes a projection on the air inflow side, is provided. The leading pad mainly ensures stiffness in pitch direction. Furthermore, the two side pads are provided behind the leading pad and to the right and the left, and mainly ensure stiffness in roll direction.

Please amend paragraph 50, beginning on page 13, line 4, with the following paragraph:

The leading step 3a extends from a front edge of the leading pad 2a to a front edge of the flying head slider 1. The two side steps 3b, 3c extend from two side faces of the leading pad 2a to the two side pads 2b, 2c and are connected to the two side pads 2b, 2c. The center step 3d extends frontward from a front edge of the center pad 2d and has a projection on the air inflow side. However, the center step 3d and the leading pad ~~3a~~ 2a are not connected.

Please amend paragraph 57, beginning on page 15, line 4, with the following paragraph:

On the other hand, the recess on the air inflow side of the center pad 2d enables the freedom of design for improving the CFH characteristics, the skew dependence characteristics, and the linear

speed dependence characteristics. For example, as shown in Fig. 1B, the recess on the air inflow side of the center pad 2d is formed in substantially polygon shape, and points 7a through 7d can be changed to any positions in order to control the fly height and adjust the above-mentioned characteristics according to drive conditions. In addition, the shape of the center pad ~~2b~~ 2d on the air inflow side can be an arc shape, instead of a polygon shape, as long as there is a recess.

Please amend paragraph 61, beginning on page 16, line 17, with the following paragraph:

The steps 3 ~~are~~ do not ~~existed~~ exist between the recess 4 and the leading pad 2a, the side pads 2b, 2c, and the center pad 2d at contour parts 8a, which are indicated by solid lines.

Please amend paragraph 65, beginning on page 17, line 27 and continuing onto page 18, with the following paragraph:

On the flying head slider 1, the contour lines of the positive pressure generating surfaces 2 and the steps 3 should preferably only consist of curved lines or of combinations of curved lines and tangent of the ~~curbed~~ curved lines, without any discontinuity. However, as an exception, the curved lines would be discontinuous at interfaces 9a between areas, where the steps 3 are between the positive pressure generating surfaces 2 and the recess 4, and areas, where the steps 3 are not between the positive pressure generating surfaces 2 and the recess 4, as well as at cross points 9b, where the contour lines, where the positive pressure generating surfaces 2 are connected to the slider edge faces, are connected to the slider edge faces.

Please amend paragraph 69, beginning on page 19, line 2, with the following paragraph:

Cross points 11, where patterns on the mask 10a and the mask 10b would cross each other, would be created as a result, and discontinuities in the contours of the positive pressure generating surfaces 2 would also be created. ~~–~~However, shaping the parts of the positive pressure generating surfaces 2 as such is advantageous from the manufacturing stand point, because adverse effects for ~~entirely~~ the entire shape would be avoided, even if there were a slight misalignment between the masks.